

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
HA-05 /117 W

-----064802 270307Z /70

O 270303Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1006
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 01681

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, UR
SUBJECT: UN ANNOUNCES TERMINATION OF SHEVCHENKO'S
APPOINTMENT

1. UN SPOKESMAN (STAJDUHAR) ANNOUNCED APRIL 26 THAT, FOLLOWING WALDHEIM-SHEVCHENKO MEETING PREVIOUS EVENING, AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON TERMINATION OF SHEVCHENKO'S CONTRACT WITH UN. SUCH TERMINATION BASED ON STAFF REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH SPOKESMAN SAID SYG CAN TERMINATE APPOINTMENT IF SUCH ACTION IS IN INTERESTS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARDS OF CHARTER AND IS NOT CONTESTED BY STAFF MEMBER CONCERNED. SHEVCHENKO WILL RECEIVE TOTAL PAYMENT OF \$76,116, CONSISTING OF \$34,855 FOR REMAINING PORTION OF CONTRACT, \$16,893 FOR ACCRUED LEAVE, AND \$24,386 REFUND (INCLUDING INTEREST) FROM PENSION FUND. (SPOKESMAN DID NOT EXPLAIN \$18 DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE ANNOUNCED TOTAL PAYMENT AND THE SUM OF THESE THREE ITEMS.) SHEVCHENKO WILL ALSO RECEIVE PARTIAL PENSION OF \$3,186 PER YEAR, HAVING RETIRED BEFORE AGE OF 55. UN SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO COMMENT ON SHEVCHENKO'S PLANS OR POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR.

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2. AFTER THE BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN
STATEMENT BY SHEVCHENKO WAS DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS:

BEGIN TEXT:
AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS ANNOUNCED TODAY, WE HAVE
REACHED AN AMICABLE MUTUAL AGREEMENT CONCERNING
THE TERMS OF MY SEPARATION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

SECRETARIAT. I NOW INTEND TO TAKE THE NECESSARY LEGAL STEPS TO ESTABLISH RESIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES, WHERE I HOPE TO BE FREE TO LEAD A NORMAL AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE.

AS IS KNOWN, I HAVE REFUSED TO ACCEPT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO GO TO MOSCOW ON AN OFFICIAL TRIP. I CONSIDER THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO GIVE SUCH INSTRUCTIONS TO AN OFFICIAL OF THE SECRETARIAT. AS IS ALSO KNOWN, I HAVE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND CONVICTIONS WITH THE PRESENT SOVIET SYSTEM, WHICH HAVE LED ME TO THE DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT INSTRUCTIONS TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION.

MY FAMILY IS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THEIR WELL-BEING IS PARAMOUNT TO ME. RUMORS AND SPECULATION ABOUT MY PERSONAL LIFE, PAST CONDUCT OR FUTURE INTENTIONS ARE MOST DISTRESSING. NOT ONLY ARE THEY FALSE, BUT, ABOVE ALL, THEY EXPOSE MY FAMILY TO SERIOUS RISKS.

I CONSIDER THAT I HAVE ASSURANCES THAT MY FAMILY WILL NOT IN ANY WAY SUFFER AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MY DECISION, WHICH IS MADE FREELY BY ME AND FOR WHICH I ALONE AM RESPONSIBLE.

I HAVE ADVISED THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT, IN THE INTEREST OF THE DIGNITY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THE SPIRIT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE, I BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE TO GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THE NATURE OF MY DIFFERENCES WITH THE SOVIET SYSTEM.

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT IF MY LIFE IS TO BE NORMAL HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, AS I HOPE, THAT PUBLIC DISCUSSION AT THIS TIME OF MY PERSONAL VIEWS WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO SOVIET-UNITED STATES RELATIONS OR TO MY FAMILY IN THE SOVIET UNION.

COMPLETION OF THE SERVICES OF MR. ERNEST A. GROSS GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS PUBLICLY MY DEEP GRATITUDE FOR HIS VALUED LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE WHICH HE HAS GIVEN ME DURING THIS VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD.

I INTEND NOW TO SPEND SEVERAL WEEKS ARRANGING MY AFFAIRS AND THEN TO SETTLE AT AN ADDRESS WHICH WILL BE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE. END TEXT. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTRACTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN01681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780179-0690
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978047/aaaaafx.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 22ac61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3007815
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN ANNOUNCES TERMINATION OF SHEVCHENKO'S APPOINTMENT
TAGS: PDIP, PORG, UR, UN, (SHEVCHENKO, ARKADY N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/22ac61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014